

leaving school he went on to get jobs in the construction industry.

Mr Cordell says he has tried to build himself up a business for providing party entertainment. At the moment he says he is not able to earn from this due to the restrictions of his bail.

Mr Cordell has had one long term relationship which he describes as "my first true love". This is with a woman called Diana who is currently studying physiotherapy. They were together thirteen years but he says she has moved back out of his flat in recent months. Mr Cordell thinks this is secondary to the repeated involvement of the police in their lives and the stress this has caused.

Mr Cordell lives in a one bedroom council flat. He says things have been financially difficult in recent months as his benefits were stopped and he has had to borrow from friends and relatives. His benefits have been restarted now.

Mr Cordell says he does not smoke tobacco and does not drink alcohol. He says he does occasionally smoke "skunk".

Forensic History

Mr Cordell was put in a Young Offender's Institution at the age of 16 after repeated driving offences (driving without a license)

Mr Cordell says he has not been in trouble with the police for a number of years. He had stolen some trainers at a festival in 2009 and prior to that had not been in trouble since 2005.

He denied any violent offences.

Mr Cordell currently stands accused of burglary. He has a solicitor and the case will not be heard until July at the earliest.

Mental State Examination

Mr Cordell presented as a tall mixed race man with short dark hair and beard, dressed appropriately in trousers and coat. He sat in a relaxed manner throughout our interview making good eye contact. His speech was a little rapid, but normal in rhythm and tone. His mood was described as "anxious", objectively it was a little low with a reactive affect. There was no evidence of formal thought disorder; content focused around the problems caused by his bail conditions. He described suicidal thoughts but said he had no plan to act on the thoughts due to wanting justice first. Mr Cordell denied abnormal perceptions and was not obviously responding to any. Cognition was not formally assessed but appeared grossly intact. Mr Cordell could see that most of his problems flowed from the very difficult set of circumstances he finds himself in and that he did not think he is "crazy".

Opinion

Mr Cordell is a 33 year old man presenting with anxiety and suicidal thoughts over the last nine months in the context of having a pending court case with no clear date or outcome yet. I would agree with Mr Cordell's own assessment that he does not have a major mental disorder. He has symptoms of anxiety in keeping with the stressful circumstances he finds himself in. He also displays a number of maladaptive psychological coping mechanisms, which likely flow from his difficult childhood with a violent father. His suicidal thoughts and acts have been a long running feature, becoming particularly acute at times of involvement with the criminal justice system.

Management

We agreed a crisis plan today should Mr Cordell feel inclined to act on his suicidal thoughts. We agreed he would either call the Crisis Team (0208 702 5060) or the Samaritans (08457 90 90 90). If these sources of support did not work out I said he could always call an ambulance in an emergency.

We agreed that he could try an antidepressant medication if he chose to, although he remained ambivalent about this at consultation. Sertraline 50 mg OD increasing to 100 mg OD after one week, continuing as long as necessary would be appropriate.

I also discussed psychotherapy with Mr Cordell today. He was not sure about this at present. If Mr Cordell would like psychotherapy the IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies) service would seem like an appropriate place to get this.

We have not made plans to follow Mr Cordell up. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Dr Gareth Jarvis MBChB MRCPsych

ST5 General Adult Psychiatry

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